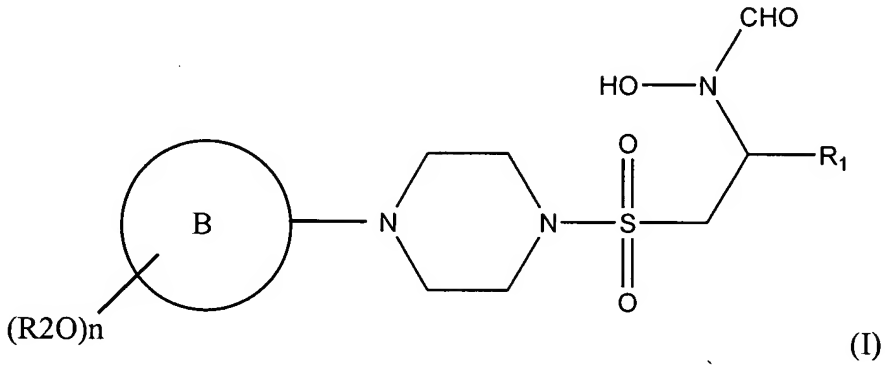
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A compound of formula (I)



(I)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof,

wherein ring B represents a monocyclic aryl ring having six ring atoms or a monocyclic heteroaryl ring having up to six ring atoms and containing one or more ring heteroatoms wherein each said heteroatom is nitrogen;

R2 represents a group selected from C1-6 alkyl or aryl, which said group is substituted by one or more fluorine groups;

n is 1, 2 or 3; and

R1 represents an optionally substituted group selected from C1-6 alkyl, C5-7 cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, C1-6 alkyl-aryl, C1-6alkyl-heteroaryl, C1-6 alkyl-cycloalkyl or C1-6alkyl-heterocycloalkyl.

2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein B is monocyclic aryl ring having six ring atoms or a monocyclic heteroaryl ring having up to six ring atoms and containing from one to four nitrogen ring atoms.

3. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein ring B is phenyl, pyridinyl or pyrimidinyl.

4. (Currently amended) A compound according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 wherein R2 is a C1-6 alkyl group substituted by one to five fluorine groups.

5. (Currently amended) A compound according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 wherein R2 is substituted by three or four fluorine groups.

6. (Original) A compound according to claim 5 wherein R2 is the group - CF2CHCF2.

7. (Original) A compound according to claim 5 wherein R2 is the group –CH2CF3.

8. (Currently amended) A compound according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 wherein n is 1.

9. (Currently amended) A compound according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 wherein R1 is an optionally substituted group selected from C1-4 alkyl, aryl having six ring atoms, a five to six membered heterocycloalkyl ring comprising one or two ring heteroatoms, which may be the same or different, selected from N, O and S or a C1-4 alkyl-heteroaryl group wherein the heteroaryl has up to six ring atoms and comprises one or two ring heteroatoms selected from N, O and S

10. (Original) A compound according to claim 9 wherein R1 is an optionally substituted five to six membered heterocycloalkyl ring comprising one or two ring heteroatoms, which may be

the same or different, selected from N, O and S, or a C1-4alkyl-heteroaryl group having up to six ring atoms and comprising one or more heteroatoms, which may be the same or different, selected from N, O and S, optionally substituted on the heteroaryl ring.

11. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 9 ~~or 10~~ wherein R1 is unsubstituted.

12. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 9 ~~or 10~~ wherein R1 is substituted by one or two substituents, which may be the same or different, selected from C1-4 alkyl, halogen, CF3 and CN.

13. (Original) A compound according to claim 12 wherein R1 is substituted by fluorine.

14. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 11 ~~or claim 13~~ wherein R1 is tetrahydropyranyl, 2-pyrimidinyl-CH2CH2-, 2-pyrimidinyl-CH2CH2CH2- or 5-F-2-pyrimidinyl-CH2CH2-.

15. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R2 is C1-6 alkyl, substituted by one to five fluorine groups; n is 1; ring B is phenyl, pyridinyl or pyrimidinyl and R1 is an optionally substituted five to six membered heterocycloalkyl ring comprising one or two ring heteroatoms, which may be the same or different, selected from N, O and S, or a C1-4alkyl-heteroaryl group having up to six ring atoms and comprising one or more heteroatoms, which may be the same or different, selected from N, O and S, optionally substituted on the heteroaryl ring.

16. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 15~~ claim 1 in association with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

17. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of a pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 16 which comprises mixing a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, as defined in ~~any one of claims 1 to 15~~ claim 1 with a pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvant, diluent or carrier.

18-19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently amended) A method for treating a disease condition mediated by collagenase 3, the method comprising administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of ~~Use of~~ a compound of formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 15~~claim 1~~in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of a disease condition mediated by collagenase 3~~.

21. (Currently amended) A method for treating an obstructive airways disease, the method comprising administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of ~~Use of~~ a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof as claimed in claim 1~~any one of claims 1 to 15 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of an obstructive airways disease~~.

22. (Currently amended) The method of ~~Use according to~~ claim 21, wherein the obstructive airways disease is asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

23. (Currently amended) A method for treating osteoarthritis, the method comprising administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of ~~Use of~~ a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 15~~claim 1~~in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of osteoarthritis~~.

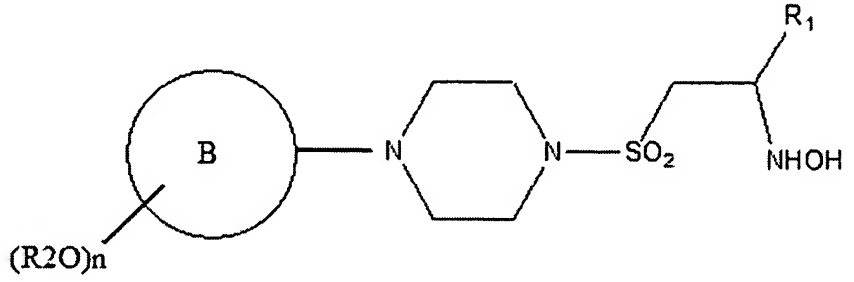
24. (Currently amended) A method for treating atherosclerosis, the method comprising administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of ~~Use of~~ a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 15~~claim 1~~in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of atherosclerosis~~.

25. (Currently amended) A method of treating a metalloproteinase mediated disease condition which comprises administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 15~~claim 1.

26. (Currently amended) A method of treating rheumatoid arthritis or osteoarthritis which comprises administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 15~~claim 1.

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I), claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, prodrug or solvate thereof, which comprises:
converting the appropriate hydroxyamino compound of the formula (IV),

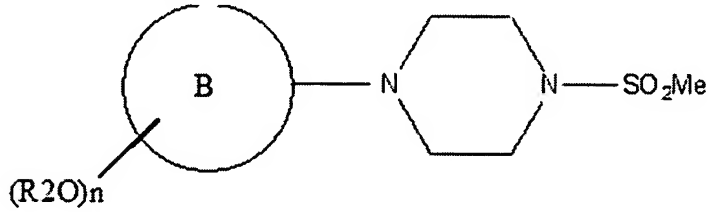


(IV)

(wherein R2, n, ring B and R1 are as defined in formula (I)),
into a compound of formula (I) by formylation with an appropriate mixed anhydride;
and optionally thereafter carrying out one or more of the following:

converting the compound obtained into a further compound according to the invention and/or forming a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or prodrug or solvate of the compound.

29. (Currently amended) A compound of formula (II)



(II)

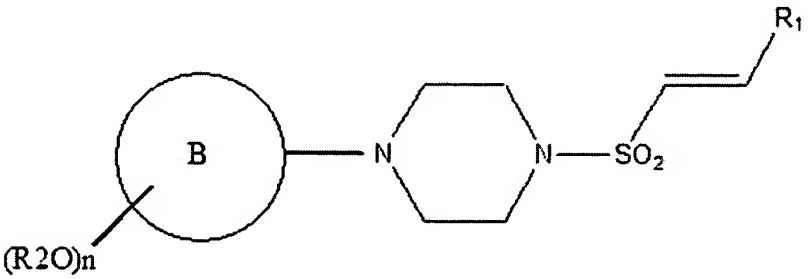
wherein ~~R2, n and ring B are as defined in formula (I) in claim 1~~

ring B represents a monocyclic aryl ring having six ring atoms or a monocyclic heteroaryl ring having up to six ring atoms and containing one or more ring heteroatoms wherein each said heteroatom is nitrogen;

R2 represents a group selected from C1-6 alkyl or aryl, which said group is substituted by one or more fluorine groups; and

n is 1, 2 or 3.

30. (Currently amended) A compound of formula (III)



(III)

wherein ~~R2,n, ring B and R1 are as defined in formula (I) in claim 1~~

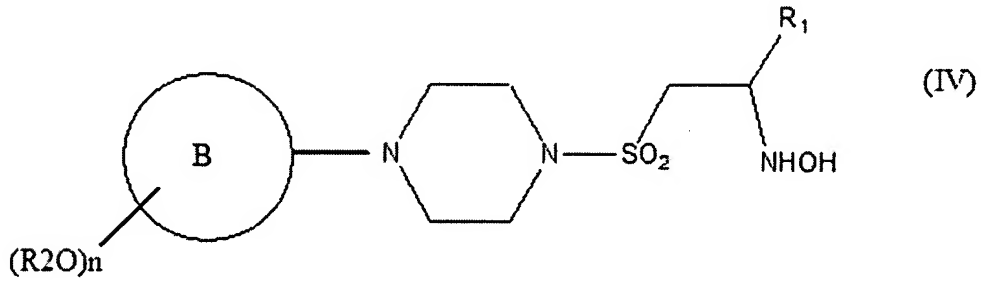
ring B represents a monocyclic aryl ring having six ring atoms or a monocyclic heteroaryl ring having up to six ring atoms and containing one or more ring heteroatoms wherein each said heteroatom is nitrogen;

R2 represents a group selected from C1-6 alkyl or aryl, which said group is substituted by one or more fluorine groups;

n is 1, 2 or 3; and

R1 represents an optionally substituted group selected from C1-6 alkyl, C5-7 cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, C1-6 alkyl-aryl, C1-6alkyl-heteroaryl, C1-6 alkyl-cycloalkyl or C1-6alkyl-heterocycloalkyl.

31. (Currently amended) A compound of formula (IV)



(IV)

wherein ~~R2, n, ring B and R1 are as defined for formula (I) in claim 1~~

ring B represents a monocyclic aryl ring having six ring atoms or a monocyclic heteroaryl ring having up to six ring atoms and containing one or more ring heteroatoms wherein each said heteroatom is nitrogen;

R2 represents a group selected from C1-6 alkyl or aryl, which said group is substituted by one or more fluorine groups;

n is 1, 2 or 3; and

R1 represents an optionally substituted group selected from C1-6 alkyl, C5-7 cycloalkyl, heterocycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, C1-6 alkyl-aryl, C1-6alkyl-heteroaryl, C1-6 alkyl-cycloalkyl or C1-6alkyl-heterocycloalkyl.